

**National Transportation Safety Board
Washington, DC 20594**

Brief of Accident

Adopted 07/09/1990

LAX89LA068	12/23/1988	38.54N, 173.24W, PO	Aircraft Reg No. N146UA	Time (Local): 00:30 HST
File No. 2363				

<p>Make/Model: BOEING / 747SP-21 Engine Make/Model: P&W / JT-9D Aircraft Damage: None Number of Engines: 4 Operating Certificate(s): Flag Carrier/Domestic Name of Carrier: UNITED AIRLINES Type of Flight Operation: Scheduled; International; Passenger/Cargo Reg. Flight Conducted Under: Part 121: Air Carrier</p>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td></td> <td>Fatal</td> <td>Serious</td> <td>Minor/None</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Crew</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>208</td> </tr> </table>		Fatal	Serious	Minor/None	Crew	0	1	13	Pass	0	0	208
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<p>Last Depart. Point: NORITA, OF Destination: SAN FRANCISCO, CA Airport Proximity: Off Airport/Airstrip</p>	<p>Condition of Light: Dawn Weather Info Src: Pilot Basic Weather: Lowest Ceiling: None Visibility: 50.00 SM Wind Dir/Speed: Temperature (°C): 10 Obstr to Vision: None Precipitation: None</p>
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<p>Pilot-in-Command Age: 60</p> <p>Certificate(s)/Rating(s) Airline Transport; Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land Instrument Ratings Airplane</p>	<p>Flight Time (Hours) Total All Aircraft: 22735 Last 90 Days: 40 Total Make/Model: 810 Total Instrument Time: UnK/Nr</p>
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UNITED AIRLINES FLT 820 WAS ENRTE FROM NORITA, JAPAN TO SAN FRANCISCO, CA. AT FLT LVL 380 SEVERE CLEAR AIR TURBULENCE WAS ENCOUNTERED. THREE CABIN CREW MEMBERS WERE THROWN TO THE CEILING, TWO OF WHOM WERE INJURED, ONE SUSTAINING A FRACTURED LEG. THE FLT DIVERTED TO HONOLULU AND LANDED WITHOUT INCIDENT. BOTH FLT AND CABIN CREW REPORTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO WARNING OF ANY IMPENDING TURBULENCE PRIOR TO ABRUPTLY ENCOUNTERING THE TURBULENCE THAT CAUSED THE INJURIES, AND THAT THE SEAT BELT SIGN WAS TURNED OFF.

Brief of Accident (Continued)

LAX89LA068
File No. 2363 12/23/1988 38.54N, 173.24W, PO Aircraft Reg No. N146UA Time (Local): 00:30 HST

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT ENCOUNTER WITH WEATHER
Phase of Operation: CRUISE - NORMAL

Findings

1. (C) WEATHER CONDITION - TURBULENCE,CLEAR AIR
2. (F) METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE - INADEQUATE - OTHER PERSON
3. (F) SEAT BELT SIGN - NOT USED
4. (F) SEAT BELT - NOT USED

Findings Legend: (C) = Cause, (F) = Factor

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident as follows.
AIRCRAFT'S ENCOUNTER WITH UNFORECAST SEVERVE CLEAR TURBULENCE.